

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI
EASTERN DIVISION**

ANTHONY MINOR,)
a/k/a Anthony Miner,)
)
Plaintiff,)
)
v.) No. 4:12CV1309 AGF
)
TIMOTHY WILSON, et al.,)
)
Defendants.)

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

This matter is before the Court on the motion of Anthony Minor (registration no. 519746), an inmate at Southeast Correctional Center, for leave to commence this action without payment of the required filing fee. For the reasons stated below, the Court finds that Plaintiff does not have sufficient funds to pay the entire filing fee and will assess an initial partial filing fee of \$67.58. See 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1). Furthermore, based upon a review of the complaint, the Court finds that the complaint should be dismissed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B).

28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1)

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1), a prisoner bringing a civil action in forma pauperis is required to pay the full amount of the filing fee. If the prisoner has insufficient funds in his or her prison account to pay the entire fee, the Court must assess and, when funds exist, collect an initial partial filing fee of 20 percent of the greater of (1) the average monthly deposits in the prisoner's account, or (2) the average monthly balance in the

prisoner's account for the prior six-month period. After payment of the initial partial filing fee, the prisoner is required to make monthly payments of 20 percent of the preceding month's income credited to the prisoner's account. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(2). The agency having custody of the prisoner will forward these monthly payments to the Clerk of Court each time the amount in the prisoner's account exceeds \$10, until the filing fee is fully paid.

Id.

Plaintiff has submitted an affidavit and a certified copy of his prison account statement for the six-month period immediately preceding the submission of his complaint. A review of Plaintiff's account indicates an average monthly deposit of \$337.92, and an average monthly balance of \$333.11. Plaintiff has insufficient funds to pay the entire filing fee. Accordingly, the Court will assess an initial partial filing fee of \$67.58, which is 20 percent of Plaintiff's average monthly deposit.

28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B), the Court must dismiss a complaint filed in forma pauperis if the action is frivolous, malicious, fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted, or seeks monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief. An action is frivolous if it "lacks an arguable basis in either law or fact." Neitzke v. Williams, 490 U.S. 319, 328 (1989); Denton v. Hernandez, 504 U.S. 25, 31 (1992) (an action is factually frivolous if it is delusional or fantastic). An action is malicious if it is undertaken for the purpose of harassing the named defendants and not for the purpose of vindicating a cognizable right. Spencer v. Rhodes, 656 F. Supp. 458, 461-63 (E.D.N.C. 1987), aff'd, 826

F.2d 1059 (4th Cir. 1987). A complaint fails to state a claim if it does not plead “enough facts to state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face.” Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly, 550 U.S. 544, 570 (2007).

The Complaint

Plaintiff brings this action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Named as Defendants are Timothy Wilson, a Circuit Court Judge; Jane Darst, an Assistant Circuit Attorney; Michah Rains, a private attorney; and John Does 1-3.

Plaintiff alleges that he was tried for rape, sodomy, and witness tampering in 1994. Plaintiff was convicted. Plaintiff claims that Defendants, who were the judge, prosecutor, and his privately retained counsel in the case, conspired together to have him convicted, depriving him of his due process rights.

Plaintiff claims that he has continued to pursue postconviction remedies in state court. Plaintiff alleges, in a conclusory fashion, that Defendants Wilson and Rains have continued to conspire to deprive him of his right to present his case to state court that he is actually innocent. Plaintiff believes defendants have formed a “star chamber” to keep him imprisoned. Plaintiff claims he is wrongly convicted.

Discussion

“Although the statute of limitations is an affirmative defense, a district court may properly dismiss an in forma pauperis complaint under 28 U.S.C. § 1915[] when it is apparent the statute of limitations has run.” Myers v. Vogal, 960 F.2d 750, 751 (8th Cir. 1992). Section 1983 claims are analogous to personal injury claims and are subject to

Missouri's five-year statute of limitations. Sulik v. Taney County, Mo., 393 F.3d 765, 766-67 (8th Cir. 2005); Mo. Rev. Stat. § 516.120(4). As a result, Plaintiff's claims regarding his trial are barred by the statute of limitations.

The complaint is legally frivolous as to these defendants. It is legally frivolous as to defendant Wilson because judges are "entitled to absolute immunity for all judicial actions that are not 'taken in a complete absence of all jurisdiction.'" Penn v. United States, 335 F.3d 786, 789 (8th Cir. 2003) (quoting Mireles v. Waco, 502 U.S. 9, 11-12 (1991)). The complaint is legally frivolous as to defendant Darst because where "the prosecutor is acting as advocate for the state in a criminal prosecution, [] the prosecutor is entitled to absolute immunity." Brodnicki v. City of Omaha, 75 F.3d 1261, 1266 (8th Cir. 1996). And the complaint is legally frivolous as to defendant Rains because Rains is not a state actor, and plaintiff's claims regarding a conspiracy are conclusory and therefore are not entitled to a presumption of truth.

Further, a prisoner may not recover damages in a § 1983 suit where the judgment would necessarily imply the invalidity of his conviction, continued imprisonment, or sentence unless the conviction or sentence is reversed, expunged, or called into question by issuance of a writ of habeas corpus. Heck v. Humphrey, 512 U.S. 477, 486-87 (1994); Schafer v. Moore, 46 F.3d 43, 45 (8th Cir. 1995); Edwards v. Balisok, 520 U.S. 641, 648 (1997) (applying rule in § 1983 suit seeking declaratory relief). Plaintiff seeks to show that his conviction is improper in this suit based on his allegations regarding a conspiracy to

convict him and to continue depriving him of his rights. As a result, the action is Heck-barred.

Finally, many of plaintiff's allegations, like those regarding a "star chamber," lack any basis and are, therefore, factually frivolous under Denton.

Accordingly,

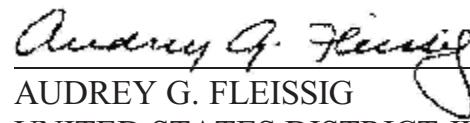
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Plaintiff's motion to proceed in forma pauperis [Doc. 2] is **GRANTED**.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Plaintiff shall pay an initial filing fee of \$67.58 within thirty (30) days of the date of this Order. Plaintiff is instructed to make his remittance payable to "Clerk, United States District Court," and to include upon it: (1) his name; (2) his prison registration number; (3) the case number; and (4) that the remittance is for an original proceeding.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk shall not issue process or cause process to issue upon the complaint because the complaint is legally frivolous or fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted, or both.

An Order of Dismissal will accompany this Memorandum and Order.

Dated this 21st day of August, 2012.


AUDREY G. FLEISSIG
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE